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ABSTRACT

A survey of local history collections in Nebraska public libraries was made in an attempt to determine whether public libraries in that state were building local history collections; what items were being collected; and how collections were acquired, used, and promoted. The survey also attempted to ascertain if there was a demonstrable relationship between size of local history collections and total collection size or size of population in the area served by a library. Underlying causes for lack of development of local history collections were also examined. A six-page, multiple-choice questionnaire was sent to the public library located in the county seat of all 93 counties in the state. The 42 usable returns were processed for computer analysis and analyzed using a STAT 08 computer program. Due to poor return rate and a faulty survey instrument, the results could not be considered conclusive, but they seemed to indicate that public libraries in Nebraska were not fulfilling their responsibility to collect and preserve the history of their area. (Author/SL)

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A SURVEY OF LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS IN NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A Research Paper

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by
Elizabeth M. Heuermann
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ABSTRACT

A survey of local history collections in Nebraska public libraries was made in an attempt to determine whether public libraries in that state were building local history collections and what items were being collected. The survey also attempted to ascertain if there was a demonstrable relationship between size of local history collections and total collection size or size of population in the area served by a library. Underlying causes for lack of development of local history collections were examined.

The survey was conducted by use of a questionnaire. Forty-three returns were obtained from a first and only mailing for a return rate of 46 percent. Forty-two usable returns were processed for computer analysis and analyzed using a STAT 08 computer program.

Due to poor return rate and a faulty survey instrument, the results of this survey cannot be considered conclusive. The author does believe that the survey does tend to indicate that public libraries in Nebraska are not fulfilling their responsibility to collect and preserve the history of their areas.

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

Introduction to the Problem

Local history has been defined as ". . . the doings of ordinary people and the everyday activities of local communities."[1] Robert L. Clark, Archivist of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, defined it more specifically as being ". . . an account of the life of the people of a local area, their social, economic, political, religious, legal, constitutional, and institutional development." He goes on to say that ". . . any document which throws light on any phase of the life of the people has historical value."[2]

The public librarian, seeking information about selection and acquisition of material for a local history collection, finds little help in books intended to guide them in selection and acquisition of library materials. For example, Carter and Bonk's Building Library Collections contains only one indexed reference to local history. Made up entirely of quotes from other authors, and included in a "Checklist of Statements on Book Selection Principles," it reads as follows:

> "135. Buy, or better, beg all books or pamphlets relating to your town or written by townspeople. Secure church and town

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[1] H. M. Cashmore, Foreword to Local History and the Library, by John L. Hobbs (London: Andre Deutsch, 1962), p. ix.

[2] Robert L. Clark, "Preserving Local History: the Public Librarian's Responsibility," Oklahoma Librarian 20 (January 1970): 16.

reports, club programs, etc. Build up a little local history collection no matter how small your public library. (Bacon, 1907)

"136. Local interest should be fostered by buying freely books on local history and books by local authors. (Dana, 1920)

"137. Develop the local history collection: the items will be sought for in the library if anywhere in the world. (Drury, 1930)

"138. Make your collection of local history as exhaustive and useful as possible. (Haines, 1950)"[1]

All this may be excellent advice for the public librarian but, unfortunately, gives little information about actual selection and acquisition of local history materials. The librarian must search further to discover the answers to such questions as: What materials does the librarian gather to include in a public library's local history collection? How are these materials acquired? Who will use the public library's collection of local history and for what purposes?

Statement of the Problem

As has been seen, librarians have been advised as early as 1907, and possibly earlier, to build local history collections in public libraries. Has this advice been heeded or have public libraries failed in their responsibility to gather and preserve their community's history? If they have failed to collect local history, who has assumed the task of collecting and preserving the history of the area? What are the underlying causes for failure to develop active local history collections?

This study was an attempt to determine: (1) whether public

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[1]Mary Duncan Carter and Wallace John Bonk, Building Library Collections (Metuchen, N. J.: Scarecrow Press, 1969), p. 37.

libraries in Nebraska are building local history collections, (2) what materials are being gathered, (3) if there is a demonstrable relationship between size of local history collections and total collection size or size of the population of the area served by a library, and (4) the underlying causes for lack of collection development in those areas where local history is not actively collected.

Methodology

A search of the literature was made in order to determine what materials could be included in a public library's local history collection and how these materials can be acquired. The value of local history collections and their use by public library patrons was examined.

A survey was made of local history collections in selected public libraries in Nebraska. Questionnaires were sent to the public library located in the county seat of all ninety-three counties in the state. Data obtained from the survey were prepared and analyzed using a STAT 08 computer program to obtain frequency distributions. The results were analyzed logically.

Delineations and Delimitations

An attempt has been made in this study to determine what materials could be included in a public library's local history collection and how such materials can be acquired. The value of local history has been examined and some examples of the use of local history collections have been included. This study did not include the problems and methods of cataloging, classification, organization, and storage of local history materials. The literature search considered only publications in the English language. With few exceptions, the material

examined has been indexed in Library Literature since 1960.

A survey of selected Nebraska public libraries was made. The data were analyzed using a STAT 08 program. An attempt has been made to determine if Nebraska public libraries are fulfilling their responsibility to gather and preserve the local history of the areas they serve and what items are being collected. Underlying causes for lack of development of local history collections in public libraries were studied. An attempt was made to determine who is collecting local history if the public libraries are not doing so. A search was made for demonstrable relationships between the size of local history collections and total collection size or size of the population of the area served by a library. An in-depth statistical analysis of the data was not attempted for this study.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE SEARCH

That local history is a subject of concern to many librarians in many countries is evident from the number and variety of articles indexed in Library Literature. There, one can find articles pertaining to almost any aspect of the topic and written in several languages.

Responsibility of Public Libraries to Collect Local History

Numerous contributors to the literature stated that public libraries have a definite responsibility to gather and preserve material about their area and make it available to their patrons. Writing for the Small Libraries Project of the Administration Division of the American Library Association, Sam A. Shuler stated: "Every public library is responsible for collecting and maintaining a local history collection for its own community service area."[1] William W. Bryan, librarian at the Peoria, Illinois, Public Library, commented: "Local librarians are among the very few with a knowledge of a community's history and its historical materials" and that preservation of these materials is the ". . . responsibility of the local librarians."[2]

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[1]Sam A. Shuler, Local History Collection and Services in a Small Public Library, Small Libraries Project, no. 19 (Chicago: American Library Association, 1970), p. 1.

[2]William W. Bryan, "The Use of Local History Materials in Two Public Libraries. A. In the Peoria Public Library," Library Trends

Generally, librarians outside the United States hold similar views on the responsibility of public librarians to local history. A librarian in Australia wrote that public librarians have a ". . . legitimate if not obligatory concern with it."[1]

John L. Hobbs, borough librarian at Shrewsbury, England, in his Local History and the Library, placed the ultimate responsibility for building local history collections upon the librarian.

> But the real reason why the librarian should participate in this work of collecting local historical materials is simple. He really has no alternative: It is a duty--one thrust upon him by the logic of circumstance and by virtue of his position as custodian of the literature which is of potential interest to the community he serves and which gives him his livelihood. Local history material constitutes a vital part of this literature and the librarian who neglects it is not fulfilling his whole duty to his community.[2]

The Value of Local History

In that portion of the literature examined, local history was most often felt to be of greatest value to the community. Donald Dean Parker commented that a community which does not know its own history can be compared to a man who has lost his memory.[3] This statement seems to summarize the feeling of the majority of the writers. However, deeper and further-reaching sociological, educational, and historical values have been attributed to local history.

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13 (October 1964): 192.

[1]C. E. Smith, "Building a Local History Collection," Australian Library Journal 21 (November 1972): 411.

[2]John L. Hobbs, Local History and the Library (London: Andre Deutsch, 1962), p. 17.

[3]Donald Dean Parker, Local History: How to Gather It, Write It, and Publish It, rev. and ed. Bertha E. Josephson (New York: Social Service Research Council, 1944), p. xii.

Willa K. Baum reported that the local library can make a very real contribution to community identity and unity by gathering, preserving, and publicizing a community's local history.

> The town which has a known and proud tradition and whose citizens, be they old-family or new-comers, feel a part of that on-going tradition, can be expected to aspire to more in the way of civic betterment . . . than those of a town which has no identity. . . . And the very collecting of materials that show the parts played by all segments of the community . . . can play a part in welding together these diverse segments.[1]

Local history has an educational value when history, geography, and other studies are brought to life by associating them with topographical, social, political, and economic development of the community. Especially for a child, the past of his own community is often more meaningful than ancient history and can emphasize aspects of national history much better than the best textbook.[2]

This feeling has long been evident in England. It was reported, by Finberg and Skipp, that as early as 1908 the Board of Education issued a circular on the teaching of history in the secondary school. The Board felt each school should also focus attention on the history of the town and district in which it was situated.[3] The past few decades have seen an increased popularity in local history study among adult students in England. Consequently, greater power and responsibility in arranging courses on widely differing aspects of local history study was given local authorities by the Education Act of 1944.[4]

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[1]Willa K. Baum, "Building Community Identity Through Oral History: A New Role for the Local Librarian," California Librarian 31 (October 1971): 272.

[2]H. P. R. Finberg and V. H. T. Skipp, Local History: Objectives and Pursuit (Newton Abbot, England: David & Charles, 1967), p. 25.

[3]Hobbs, p. 7.

[4]Ibid., p. 5.

The study of local history and its impact on national history was examined by John L. Hobbs. He felt the minute investigation of detail made possible by study of local history is repudiating many of the generalities on which many national histories were based.

> Local history can be of the greatest value to national history when it gathers together instances of events illustrating social trends or tendencies which are otherwise difficult to find. . . . Indeed, the very cause of national events, when studied in detail, are often shown to lie in the personalities behind them, which are again determined by local conditions and affairs.[1]

Study of local history can often furnish an insight into the past that cannot be obtained in any other way. Parker felt that contemporary documents and writings may portray the events and people of an area and provide the "flavor" of the time more accurately than any other source.[2]

Acquisition of Material

Every librarian is told repeatedly, in school and through library literature, of the importance of an acquisitions policy for the library. Such a policy is just as important to guide the librarian in building a local history collection as it is when choosing material for the children's department.

Although each public library will need to tailor its policy to fit its own needs and interests, several points for consideration were found in the literature. Smith stressed the importance of defining a geographical area of interest and confining collection to those materials pertinent to the area.[3] Brubaker stated that size of the area chosen may be influenced, in part, by the density of the population or

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[1]Hobbs, p. 5. [2]Parker, p. 32. [3]Smith, p. 412.

by the presence or absence of other depository sites.[1] An Indiana librarian suggested the policy specify that gift materials become the permanent property of the library.[2] Smith felt the library should be free to ". . . retain and use them, offer them to other libraries, or as a last resort to return or destroy them."[3]

Local history material can be acquired by loan, by purchase, or by gift. Some of the materials will obviously need to be purchased. However, acquisition by gift is most desirable for those items considered primary source material, generally found in private hands, or ephemeral material which is locally produced. The librarian is cautioned by Smith against the practice of purchasing items that ". . . are usually available without charge,"[4] including old personal letters, diaries, locally produced pamphlets, brochures, and programs. "For the beginning of payment is likely to mean the end of the free supply."[5] Unfortunately, much material of this type, having historical value, is destroyed due to lack of knowledge on the part of the public as to its value and importance to the local history collection. The librarian should use any and all means possible to bring the necessity of preserving such material to the attention of the community.[6]

The literature cited several methods which had been used to further community interest in local history and local history collections. Among those mentioned were use of special displays and exhibits

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[1]Robert L. Brubaker, "Manuscript Collections," Library Trends 13 (October 1964): 233.

[2]Dorothy M. Lower, "Library and Local Records," Focus on Indiana Libraries 25 (December 1971): 170.

[3]Smith, p. 413. [4]Ibid., p. 412. [5]Ibid. [6]Ibid.

within the library or set up in other areas in the community. During National Library Week in 1969, Brooklyn Public Library developed special promotion to draw attention to the local history collection and to solicit donations of additional material.[1] Also cited in the literature were special lectures and reading lists and use of local newspapers, radio, and television.

Whatever method is used, lines of communication need to be established between the library and its public to let them know what the library has in the way of local history materials and what items are needed. The cheapest and the world's most advanced communications system, according to Barbara Fisher, is "word-of-mouth." She advised librarians, "Spread the word, publicize the word, let the word be a good one, easily and happily spoken wherever you go, to whomever you speak."[2]

Material for the Collection

Materials that comprise local history collections found in public libraries are as varied and diversified as the institutions that house them. The variety of items they contain and the size of the holdings are affected by several factors: (1) the length of time the library has been collecting local history, (2) total economic resources of the institution, (3) goals of the library and allocation of available funds, (4) length of time the locality has been settled,

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[1] "History Dragnet Set by Brooklyn Public Library," Library Journal 94 (April 1, 1969): 1408.

[2] Barbara Fisher, "E Pluribus Unum: An Archivist's View," PNLA Quarterly 36 (January 1972): 4.

(5) extent to which the inhabitants are aware that the material is of value historically and should be preserved, (6) one or more librarians who are interested in building the collection, (7) an active collecting program, and (8) competition of nearby institutions with strong collections and vigorous acquisitions programs.[1]

Few sources were found which the librarian could use as a comprehensive aid or guide in selecting material for the local history collection. Most authors discussed specific items which they felt should be included or were found in their own collections. Only a few sources provided any kind of a "list" which would be of help.

C. E. Smith, of Australia, wrote that the range of material collected would extend beyond the ". . . definition of a book which includes periodical, newspaper, and any other printed matter and also /include/ map, music, manuscript, pictures, photographic plate and film and any other matter or thing whereby words or sounds are recorded or reproduced." He added that the collection would contain all of the above mentioned articles plus museum items or ". . . relics such as medals" some of which are ". . . inseparable from related documents."[1]

Robert L. Clark, Archivist of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, suggested public libraries gather material in two areas: (1) local archives, and (2) manuscripts. He defined these areas as follows:

> The local archives include the written or printed book, papers, or maps, made and received in pursuance of law by counties, cities, town, and villages in the transaction of public business. Examples are official correspondence, reports, minute books, wills, marriage records, vital statistics, deed books, official oaths and bonds, vouchers, assessment rolls, tax lists, court records, election

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[1]Brubaker, p. 233.

[2]Smith, p. 411.

> returns, militia lists, records of estates, and all other official papers produced during the activities of an official body. Most of these will be kept in the county courthouse or city hall. The public library should make an effort to see that the older, non-current ones are not damaged by official neglect. . . . The library might offer to care for the records which are not needed to carry on the day to day activities of the office. . . .
>
> The second area, and the one with which the library will be most concerned, is the collection and preservation of manuscript material. These are the records which are produced by nonofficial bodies. They include diaries, personal correspondence, clippings, or anything else which is a spontaneous expression of thought or feeling. A manuscript collection usually consists of private papers. It may consist of records of an old coal mining operation or an oil company, or they may be papers of a prominent businessman or civi leader.[1]

A pamphlet entitled Local History Collection and Services in a Small Public Library, written by Sam A. Shuler, was published in 1970 by the American Library Association. Writing about material for the collection, Shuler said:

> The local history collection should contain a variety of materials bearing, in differing ways or degrees, on the locality's history. In addition to books, local history collections may legitimately contain, among other items, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, clippings and other ephemeral items, typescripts, pictures, films and slides, tape recordings, maps, public records, personal and family manuscripts, business and institutional archives--and photocopies or other reproductions of a number of these.[2]

Use of the Collection

Since local history is the record of the everyday activities and events of a community and its people, "A live local history collection will be used not only by the historian, genealogist, and general student, but by workers in economics, sociology, political science, public administration, geography and science, and by writers and literary historians."[3]

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[1]Clark, p. 15. [2]Shuler, p. 2. [3]Bryan, p. 192.

Several interesting accounts of specific use of local history collections by patrons were found in the literature. An unusual example of use was reported by the librarian of the Dayton, Ohio, Public Library. City engineers searched the library's newspaper collection for information about an old statue which was to be moved to a new location. Erected in the 1800s, the newspaper description of the erection and dedication of the monument gave size and weight of the base stones, pedestal, and statue. With this information, the move was made more efficiently and economically.[1]

In 1963, Lucile Boykin, Head of the Department of Local History and Genealogy of the Dallas Public Library, told of two high school students who used the library's microfilm collection of old newspapers for school assignments. One student searched for material for a paper on fashions of the early 1900s and the other gathered information about interior decoration of homes of that same time period.[2]

Numerous examples of use of local history materials in the school, elementary through university, were found in Local History: Objective and Pursuit, by Finberg and Skipp. The authors are English and many of the records of which they wrote are typical of that country. Others correspond to local records found in the United States and similar use could be made of them. For example:

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[1]Elizabeth Faries, "The Use of Local History in Two Public Libraries. B. In the Dayton Public Library," Library Trends 13 (October, 1964): 201.

[2]Lucile A. Boykin, "Plans for the Future," Local History and Genealogy Society, Cooperating with the Dallas Public Library 9 (March 1963): 12.

> Using the census, a full occupation analysis of the parish[1] can be prepared. Work can be done on the size and structure of households; on the age structure of the community, and the distribution of the sexes in the various age-groups. You can find out what proportion of children went to school, and over what period of their childhood.[2]

Other mention is made, in the book, of use of local history in the study of geography, political science, and social and economic studies. "Parish histories" were produced by members of adult study groups under the leadership of one of the authors.[3]

Indications of Failure of Public Libraries to Collect Local History

Although there appeared to be widespread interest in local history and most authors seemed to feel that collecting and preserving a community's history is the responsibility of the local library, there was an indication that many public libraries are not fulfilling their responsibility in this area. Clark reported that in 1960 a questionnaire was sent to all public, university, and special libraries in the state for the purpose of compiling a professional Directory of Archival Collections. Overall result of the survey was so negative the Directory was not published. Of those responding to the questionnaire, only three public libraries in the state reported ". . . any resemblance of a collection of local history or archives." Clark went on to say that several years later a symposium on archival administration was held in Oklahoma City. This meeting was attended by ". . . 156 librarians,

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[1]There are two types of English parishes--civil and ecclesiastical. An ecclesiastical parish is the district served by a clergyman of the Church of England, the State Church. A civil parish, also known as a township, is the smallest unit of civil or local government administration. The boundaries of civil and ecclesiastical parishes do not necessarily coincide.

[2]Finberg, p. 122.

[3]Ibid., p. 88.

historians, curators, and genealogists." Invitations had been sent to all public libraries in Oklahoma. "Only 6 public librarians attended."[1] From this, Clark concluded it must be ". . . evident to everyone that our public libraries are abdicating their responsibility to local history and archives."[2]

Walter Hubbard, writing in Vermont Libraries, voiced concern about apparent lack of collection of current materials.

> Right off the top of my head I venture to say that librarians, local historical societies, small museums, colleges and universities are not collecting materials which properly document what is happening in Vermont. And the funny part is that those of us who are in a position to collect and disseminate Vermont history are in an age where communications make the task all the more easy. From what I have witnessed, this ongoing project is almost non-existent.[3]

The picture in England appears somewhat brighter. There, Hobbs reported, nearly all municipal libraries, with the exception of the "very smallest," had local history collections. The size of these ranged from one library's collection of 40,000 volumes and half a million manuscripts to collections of a ". . . mere score or so of books."[4] One problem still found, Hobbs stated, is that, "Too many librarians expect the department to grow naturally as a result of gifts, . . ."[5]

In summing up reasons for failure of public libraries to build local history collections, Clark stated, "The greatest handicap to a local history collector is not knowing what to do, what material to

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[1]Clark, p. 14. [2]Ibid.

[3]Walter Hubbard, "Lest We Regret: Collecting and Disseminating Vermont History," Vermont Libraries 2 (April 1972): 88.

[4]Hobbs , p. 19. [5]Ibid., p. 23.

collect, or how to go about acquiring, preserving, and arranging the material."[1]

Similar Studies

In the literature searched, few studies of local history collections in public libraries were found. Following the abortive attempt by Robert Clark to compile a Directory of Archival Collections, which has been discussed above, another study of local history collections in Oklahoma public libraries was carried out in 1964. Margaret Patterson conducted this survey while working for her Master of Library Science degree. The results of the study were reported in the January 1965 issue of Oklahoma Librarian. Sixty-one libraries, of the sixty-six surveyed, responded to the questionnaire. The results of the survey ". . . indicate that the public libraries in Oklahoma are not successfully meeting their responsibility in collecting, organizing, preserving and interpeting [sic] local history materials."[2]

Pollyanna Creekmore, librarian of McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville Public Library, reported on "The Public Library and Local History," in Tennessee Librarian, early in 1962. For this study, fifty-two libraries, including regional libraries, were surveyed. "Twenty-two libraries responded to the questionnaire, of which eighteen stated that they maintain a history collection of some sort."[3] The author then

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[1]Clark, p. 14.

[2]Margaret Patterson, "The Status of Local History Collections in Oklahoma Public Libraries," Oklahoma Librarian 15 (January 1965): 19.

[3]Pollyanna Creekmore, "The Public Library and Local History," Tennessee Librarian 14 (January 1962): 36.

went on to describe some of the larger collections to be found in public libraries in Tennessee. As a result of her survey, Creekmore concluded, "Public libraries and their librarians in Tennessee are concerned about the history of the state and their own localities. Most of them are seeking out and preserving local materials on a small scale."[1]

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[1]Ibid., p. 37.

CHAPTER III

DATA COLLECTION

Approach to the Problem

Because of the very nature of local history collections and the variety of materials they contain as well as the many factors that affect both their size and content, a strictly objective survey is difficult to make. Data for a study of this type of collection could be obtained by questionnaire followed by a personal interview with the librarian in charge of the collection and personal inspection of the collection itself, by personal interview with the librarian and inspection of the collection, or by use of a questionnaire alone. Due to circumstances of time and distance, data for this study were obtained only by questionnaire. In doing so, the researcher was well aware of some of the problems that might be encountered.

The Survey Plan

In preparation for this survey, the literature was searched to determine what had previously been done in this field by other researchers. Much information was found that reported the status of local history collections in individual public libraries or the contents of individual collections. In the literature examined, few reports were found of surveys of local history collections made on a regional or state-wide basis. For this project, it was decided to conduct a survey

of local history collections on a state-wide basis.

The state of Nebraska was chosen as the survey site. Questionnaires were mailed to selected public libraries across the state. Data from the returned questionnaires were encoded on computer cards and analyzed using a STAT 08 program. A logical analysis of the results was made.

Preparation of the Instrument

In preparing the questionnaire, an attempt was made to keep the questions as simple and uncomplicated as possible. Every attempt was made to produce a questionnaire that would be understandable to those with little or no advanced study in the field of library work and yet would not seem too "unprofessional" to the librarian holding advanced degrees in library science.

Possible answers to questions were framed in such a way as to allow, where necessary, for the wide range of difference among libraries and collections that would be encountered. The population statistics for the counties as determined by the 1970 census were used to formulate the possible answers for question number two. Information about collection sizes was obtained from the American Library Directory, 28th edition. The items in the check-list of materials found in local history collections (question number nine) was compiled from the literature. The study by Margaret Patterson, the articles by Shuler and Clark, and the books by Parker and Hobbs served as a basis.

An attempt was made to arrange the questions so they would follow from the general to the more specific. Related questions were grouped together. No open-ended questions were used but explanations

or comments were requested from the respondent in several instances. Responses were indicated by a check mark.

The final six-page questionnaire contained twenty-six questions. The format incorporated criticisms and suggestions of librarians who participated in the pretest, the librarian of the Utah Valley Branch Genealogical Library, and faculty members of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. A copy of the questionnaire and cover-letter can be found in Appendix A.

Collection Techniques

Population. The population for this study consisted of the public library located in the county seat of each county in the state of Nebraska. In no case was there more than one public library located in a county seat. With few exceptions, the county seat is the largest city, town, or village in the county. Names and addresses of the libraries were obtained from the Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln, Nebraska. A list of the libraries surveyed can be found in Appendix B.

Pretests. A preliminary questionnaire was pretested at public libraries in Provo, Payson, Spanish Fork, American Fork, Heber, Nephi, and Salt Lake City, all in Utah. Resulting criticisms and suggestions were incorporated into the final questionnaire.

Follow-up. The returns were from a first and only mailing. No follow-up was attempted due to factors of time and distance. Letters mailed in Provo, Utah, require an average of five days for delivery to a Nebraska addressee and vice versa.

Analysis of the Returns

Of the ninety-three questionnaires mailed, on June 5, 1974, forty-three were returned by July 10, 1974, for a return rate of 46 percent. One questionnaire was returned unanswered and accompanied by the information that there were no public libraries in the county seat or in any town in the county. The remaining forty-two returns were all usable although not all librarians answered all questions.

Few respondents failed to make written explanations or comments when requested to do so. Many also added additional information or comments in other areas of questioning. All written comments, found throughout the text in Chapter IV, were of benefit. Fourteen respondents requested a summary of the survey.

CHAPTER IV

PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Ninety-three questionnaires were mailed to selected public libraries in Nebraska. Forty-two usable questionnaires were returned although not all respondents replied to all questions. A STAT 08 program was used to analyze data obtained.

General Characteristics of the Libraries

Of those libraries included in the returns, 62 percent offered service to patrons on a county-wide basis or also served other counties or parts of counties. Only one library was reported to offer no service to areas outside its own city. The remaining 36 percent of the libraries were reported to offer service to one-fourth or one-half of the surrounding county.

Sixty-nine percent of the libraries serve areas having populations of 10,000 or less. Five libraries, for 12 percent, serve geographical areas having fewer than 1,000 inhabitants. Only two libraries, for 5 percent of the respondents, reported service to areas with more than 150,000 persons.

Libraries were open to the public less than 40 hours per week in 55 percent of the returns. Patrons were able to obtain service 60 or more hours per week at five, or 12 percent, of the remaining libraries. Fewer than 600 patrons per month made use of library facilities

at 45 percent of the libraries.

Collection sizes among this group of libraries range from less than 5,000 volumes, in five libraries, to more than 100,000 volumes held by two libraries. Average collection size for all libraries was 16,300 volumes.

Characteristics Relating to Local History Collections and Collecting Practices

Eighty-one percent of all librarians responding to the questionnaire reported the existence of a local history collection in their library. However, some respondents qualified this answer by commenting "very small" or "only a little." Eight libraries, for 19 percent, did not have local history collections. Of this number, two of the respondents commented that their libraries did hold local history material but the amounts were so small they could not be considered collections.

When asked to indicate the number of items in their local history collections, only two librarians did not respond to the question. Collections containing fewer than 10 items were reported in 24 percent of the libraries. Thirty-three percent were reported to have 10 to 29 items in their collections. Two libraries, or 5 percent, have more than 2,000 items in their collections of local history materials (see table 1).

Seventy-one percent of those replying reported they received fewer than 10 requests per month from patrons seeking information, of a historical nature, about the county or its people. Only one librarian reported that information of this type was requested by more than 100 patrons per month (see table 2).

Types of materials found in the individual local history

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBERS OF ITEMS
IN LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

	Local History Collections (N=42)	
	Number	Percent
Less than 10 items	10	23.81
10 to 20 items	14	33.33
30 to 49 items	4	9.52
50 to 99 items	1	2.38
100 to 249 items	7	16.67
250 to 499 items	1	2.38
500 to 999 items	0	0.00
1,000 to 1,499 items	0	0.00
1,500 to 2,000 items	0	0.00
More than 2,000 items	2	4.76
No response	2	4.76

TABLE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF PATRON REQUESTS
OF A HISTORICAL NATURE

Requests per Month	Libraries (N=42)	
	Number	Percent
Less than 5 requests	14	33.33
5 to 9 requests	16	38.10
10 to 19 requests	6	14.29
20 to 29 requests	0	0.00
30 to 39 requests	3	7.14
40 to 49 requests	1	2.38
50 to 74 requests	0	0.00
75 to 100 requests	0	0.00
More than 100 requests	1	2.38
No response	1	2.38

collections of the libraries vary greatly, as is shown by table 3. Printed secondary sources were found in the majority of the collections. County, town, or other local histories were found in 93 percent of the collections. Eighty-six percent contained state and/or regional histories. Biographies of persons associated with the county or state were in local history collections of 69 percent of the libraries. Forty-three percent of the collections included newspaper clipping files, 38 percent had files of local newspapers, and microfilm copies of local newspapers were found in 17 percent of the collections.

Primary source materials were included among the local history materials in the collections of a small number of libraries. One local history collection contained old letters, two included diaries, and journals were found in three local history collections. Oral history tape recordings were found only in three collections. One librarian did comment that their county was seeking funds from the Bi-Centennial Committee for an oral history project to be sponsored jointly by the Public Library, the County Historical Society, and the Education Unit.

Census records, either for the county or the entire state, were reported to be found in the local history collections of six libraries. Seven librarians reported their collections contained museum items.

Nine libraries, for 9 percent, were reported to have some type of church records or other materials relating to the churches of their area in their local history collections. One local history collection was reported to contain business records or other miscellaneous business papers. Civic organization records or other papers were found in six local history collections.

TABLE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF TYPES OF MATERIALS
IN THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

	Local History Collections (N=42)	
	Number	Percent
County, town, or other local histories	39	92.86
State and/or regional histories	36	85.71
Biographies of persons associated with the county or state	29	69.05
Newspaper clipping files	18	42.86
Family histories and genealogies	17	40.48
Pictures (including photographs, slides, film, etc.)	17	40.48
Files of local newspapers (entire papers)	16	38.10
Church records (including histories, anniversary addresses, sermons, etc.)	9	21.43
Microfilm copies of local newspapers	7	16.67
Museum items	7	16.67
Census records (either microfilmed or transcribed) for the county or state	6	14.29
Civic organization records (by-laws, special programs, projects, etc.)	5	11.90
Journals	3	7.14
Oral history tape recordings	3	7.14
Diaries	2	4.76
Old letters	1	2.38
Business records or other miscellaneous business papers	1	2.38

Only 12 percent, or five libraries, were reported to have special collections of materials. One library was reported to have a "Czech collection of approximately 1,300 volumes" some of which were "very rare." One librarian reported her library had a "Western Americana" collection and another reported a special collection of material about the city in which the library was located. A special microfilm collection of "all the newspapers ever published in Cheyenne County" was reported by still another librarian.

The majority of local history collections were reported to be housed in a special area in the stacks or were integrated into the general collection. Some librarians indicated that, in their libraries, material could be found in both these areas. Others stated they also used vertical files for some types of material.

Only eight of the collections, for 19 percent, were fully cataloged or indexed. Fifty percent were only partially cataloged. Five collections, or 12 percent, were not cataloged or indexed. Eight librarians did not respond to the questions.

Patrons have access to the material in local history collections by way of the main card catalog in 36 percent of the libraries. To use one collection, the patron uses a separate card catalog, special indexes, or registers. Two librarians indicated that some materials in their local history collections were accessible through the main card catalog, but separate catalogs, indexes, or registers were also necessary to locate other items in the collection. Twenty-nine percent of the collections were not cataloged and were accessible to patrons only by consulting the librarian. The question was not answered on six returns.

Gifts accounted for all or some of the materials in the local history collections of 81 percent, or thirty-four, of the libraries. Twenty-nine collections, or 69 percent, acquired some or all of their materials by purchase. Only three collections contained material on loan.

Although 81 percent of the libraries depend on gifts for part or all of their local history acquisitions, 83 percent do not have an active program designed to inform potential donors (i.e. the community) of the importance of preserving materials relating to the history, both past and present, of their area. Four libraries were reported to have such a program, and three respondents did not reply to the question.

Use of Local History Collections

Five librarians, for 12 percent of the respondents, did not reply when asked if they placed any restrictions on who was allowed to use material from their local history collections. Of the remainder, 79 percent allowed anyone to use the collection. Four librarians reported they did impose restrictions. One stated that elementary school children were not allowed to use the collection and another replied that use was restricted to those holding "borrowers cards." The restrictions imposed by the remaining librarians were more relevant to where the material could be used rather than by whom it could be used.

Teachers and students were encouraged to use materials from the local history collections for school assignments by 60 percent of the librarians. Sixty-four percent replied they encouraged persons other than teachers and students to use the collection.

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As table 4 shows, the majority of the local history collections were used by high school students, genealogists, and junior high school students. Nine librarians reported "other" types of users. Among these were: "Persons interested in state and local history." "Adults." "Term and other Uni. work." "Evidence for Social Security." "Yesterday someone used it to identify the cancellation mark on an old stamp." "People who use [sic] to live around here and moved away." "General patrons."

TABLE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF TYPES OF USERS OF THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

	Local History Collections (N=42)	
	Number	Percent
High school students	28	66.67
Genealogists	27	64.29
Junior high school students	25	59.52
Historians	16	38.10
Other	9	21.43

When asked how they promoted use of their local history collections, 33 percent of the respondents did not answer the question. Explanations of "No special promotion" and "No promotion" were added by five of this number and another stated that their collection was too small to promote.

Of those collections which were promoted, newspaper articles were used by most librarians. Special displays and exhibits within the library, reading lists, and radio were also reported to be used. One collection was promoted by use of lectures or talks before groups, and use of exhibits or displays outside the library was reported by

one librarian. Other methods of promotion were by "word-of-mouth" and use of a "memorial file" (see table 5).

TABLE 5

METHODS USED TO PROMOTE THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

	Local History Collections (N=42)	
	Number	Percent
Newspaper articles	12	28.57
Special displays and exhibits within the library	6	14.29
Reading lists	6	14.29
Other	4	9.52
Lectures or talks before groups	1	2.38
Exhibits or displays other than within the library	1	2.38

Reasons for Lack of Development of Local History Collections

Statistics show that among the librarians responding to the questionnaire, 81 percent of the libraries they represented did have a local history collection. However, 60 percent of the local history collections have fewer than 30 items. When asked to indicate reasons for lack of development of the local history collection, 36 percent of the respondents did not reply to the question. Of those who did answer the question, many indicated more than one contributing factor. Lack of facilities, staff, or funds was reported as being the major reason for lack of collection development. Other frequent responses were that previous librarians had shown no interest in building such a collection, that the library had never had a local history collection, and that the respondent did not know what to collect or how to acquire it. When asked to give reasons other than those included with the

question, one librarian reported that the library was connected with the county education office. Another explained that they "hoped to build" their collection when time and space would allow. Two librarians commented that their respective county historical societies were actively collecting local history materials. Still another reported they were "new so just building" their collection and were depending mostly on gifts.

TABLE 6

CAUSES FOR LACK OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

	Local History Collections (N=42)	
	Number	Percent
Library has no facilities, staff, or funds	20	47.72
Previous librarians have shown no interest in building	11	26.19
Librarian does not know what to collect or how to acquire it	7	16.67
Library has never collected local history	6	14.29
Another library or organization is actively collecting	5	11.90
Other	5	11.90

Twenty-four percent of the respondents reported their library anticipated active collection of local history in the future. Active collection was not planned by 17 percent and 29 percent said they did not know if such a program would be undertaken or not. Twelve librarians did not respond to the question.

Eleven librarians did not respond when asked: "Who has collected or is not collecting material about the history of your county and its people?" Seventy-five percent of the libraries were reported to have collected local history. The county historical society was reported to have been actively collecting material in 50 percent of

the counties. Twenty-nine percent reported that collection of local history materials was being done by one or more individuals in the county. Only one librarian reported she did not know if local history was being collected in the county.

Local History Workshop

Respondents were asked if they would attend a workshop on local history if one were offered. Seventy-one percent replied in the affirmative, 17 percent were not interested in this kind of a workshop, and five persons did not answer the question. More than half the librarians indicated they would be interested in all areas suggested (i.e. acquisitions, cataloging, maintenance, and use). One librarian added oral history as an area of interest. Only two librarians did not respond to this area of questioning.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Restatement of the Problem and Procedure

Public librarians have been advised as early as 1907, and possibly earlier, to build local history collections. Numerous contributors to the literature examined stated that public libraries have a definite responsibility to gather and preserve material about the history of their area and make it available to their patrons.

This study was an attempt to determine: (1) whether public libraries in Nebraska are building local history collections, (2) what items are being gathered, (3) if there is a demonstrable relationship between size of local history collections and total collection size or size of the population of the area served by a library, and (4) the underlying causes for lack of development of local history collections.

The literature was searched to obtain background information on the subject, and to determine what materials the librarian could include in a local history collection. Previous research in this field was also examined.

On the basis of information gathered from the literature, a preliminary questionnaire was drafted and submitted to pretesting by librarians in public libraries in Provo, Payson, Spanish Fork, American Fork, Heber, Nephi, and Salt Lake City, all in Utah. A revised questionnaire was mailed with a cover letter on June 4, 1974, to the public

library located in the county seat of all ninety-three Nebraska counties. Forty-three questionnaires were returned from a first and only mailing. Forty-two questionnaires were usable although not all libraries answered all questions.

Data obtained from the returns were encoded onto computer cards and analyzed by use of a STAT 08 program. The results were logically analyzed.

Conclusions

Because of the poor return rate and the many faults that were discovered in the questionnaire as the returns were being studied during processing, the results of this survey can not be regarded as conclusive. Due to the above mentioned factors, no attempt was made to determine if total collection size and size of the population of the area served by a library affected the size of local history collections.

The author does feel, however, that this survey tends to indicate but does not demonstrate that: (1) Public libraries in Nebraska are failing their responsibility to gather and preserve the history of their area. (2) Most local history collections in Nebraska public libraries are weak and contain little more than printed materials such as state and local histories and biographies. (3) Public libraries in Nebraska are failing to gather many valuable kinds of local history materials, including old letters, diaries, journals, oral history, and records and papers of local businesses, civic organizations, and churches. (4) Local history collections in Nebraska public libraries are not being developed due to lack of space, staff, and funds. Lack of interest on the part of the librarian, and knowledge of what to

collect and how to get it are also contributing factors. (5) Local or county historical societies and private individuals are assuming the responsibility of gathering and preserving local history.

The survey also indicated that many librarians are aware of and concerned about the deficiencies in their local history collections. This was readily apparent in some of the comments made by some of the respondents. The good response to the idea of a workshop on local history would also seem to indicate an awareness by many of their lack of knowledge in building this type of collection.

It is the opinion of the author that while the results of the survey cannot be regarded as conclusive, it does show that much needs to be done in this area of collection development. Hopefully, this survey will have made librarians more aware of their responsibility and may have aroused an interest in local history collecting.

Deficiencies in the Questionnaire

One of the more difficult problems in preparing the questionnaire for this survey was trying to keep it to a reasonable length. Because of this, some questions were not included in the questionnaire. Others only became apparent as the returns came in.

Many libraries were also regional library headquarters. Most librarians in these instances used data pertinent to their regional libraries when asked about areas of service and numbers of patrons served. No regional libraries were included in the population and in all instances, the questionnaire had been addressed directly to the public library. The library had not been specifically instructed to disregard regional library activities for the survey.

Professional background and training of the respondent should also have been ascertained. This information might have had some bearing on collection activity. A question asking how many items were added to the collection in a given period of time (per month or per year) should also have been added. This might have shown if librarians are really attempting to build local history collections. No question asked specifically if other public libraries in the county had local history collections.

There seemed to be a large number of librarians who replied that they did encourage patrons, teachers, and students to use the local history collection, although most of the collections contained fewer than ten items. It is felt that this question might have approached more realistic proportions had librarians also been asked to indicate what methods of "encouragement" were used. Types of materials used by students and for what kinds of assignments might have been of interest.

Although most of the respondents indicated they did not have a program directed at the community to inform them of the importance of preserving local history, there were four libraries that do have such a program. This question should have been followed by another asking how or what kind of program was used.

Probably the greatest fault in the qeustionnaire was the failure to include definitions for such terms as "local history," "local history materials," and "items." An attempt was made to formulate a definition for "items" but a suitable one was not developed. These definitions might have given the respondents some sort of framework on which to base their evaluations of their collections.

Suggested Additional Research

Because of the poor return rate and a faulty questionnaire, no attempt was made to determine if a relationship existed between size of local history collections and total collection size and size of population served by a library. This would still be of value as would a comparison of the professional and educational background of the respondents to size and content of local history collections.

Another attempt should be made to survey Nebraska local history collections. In addition to public libraries, county historical societies should also be surveyed to determine what kinds of materials they are collecting and if they are organized for use. Many county historical societies in Nebraska do have museums but some of these are only open to the public for a few hours on summer weekends.

A national survey of local history collections in public libraries would be very valuable. Perhaps, this type of survey would show if the trend indicated by this study is only regional or whether local history is the neglected step-child in public libraries across the nation.

APPENDIX A

COVER LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE

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Brigham Young University

June 4, 1974

Would you kindly assist me in my efforts to complete a study on local history collecting in Nebraska. I am working on a research project to determine what factors affect local history collecting and the extent to which such collections are maintained and used. Your library and several others across the state have been purposely selected for this study. I would greatly appreciate any information you might be able to provide about the status of local history collecting in your county.

It would be most helpful if you would answer the questions enclosed and return them in the stamped envelope provided.

Your time and effort are genuinely appreciated. If you would like a summary of the results of this study, please include your name and address after the last question.

Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Elizabeth M. Heuermann
Graduate Department
Library and Information Sciences

Enclosures

Graduate Department of Library and Information Sciences, 548 JRCL, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 84601 (801) 374-1211, Ext. 2976

QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of this study is to determine (1) who is collecting local history for Nebraska counties, (2) how much collecting is currently being done throughout the state, (3) the relationship of the size of local history collections to total collection size, to size of the population a library serves, and the amount of use a collection receives, and (4) where applicable, the underlying reasons for lack of collection development.

PART A

Please ignore the numbering sequence used as it is arranged for use in computer analysis of the data. Feel free to add any comments you feel might help clarify your responses or aid in this survey. Check the proper number of responses as indicated.

1. (1)In area, does your library serve

Check one

_____(0) Only your town or city (including suburbs).
_____(1) Your town or city and approximately one-fourth of the county.
_____(2) Your town or city and approximately one-half of the county.
_____(3) The entire county.
_____(4) Other. (Please specify the size of the area.)_____

2. (2)Approximately, how many people live in the geographical area served by your library?

_____(0) Less than 1,000 people.
_____(1) Between 1,000 and 3,000 people.
_____(2) Between 3,000 and 5,000 people.
_____(3) Between 5,000 and 7,500 people.
_____(4) Between 7,500 and 10,000 people.
_____(5) Between 10,000 and 15,000 people.
_____(6) Between 15,000 and 25,000 people.
_____(7) Between 25,000 and 40,000 people.
_____(8) Between 40,000 and 150,000 people.
_____(9) More than 150,000 people.

3. (3)Are there any other libraries (other than elementary or secondary school libraries) in your county?

_____(0) No.
_____(1) Yes. (Please specify type and number.) _____
_____

4. (4)How large is your library's collection?

Check one
_____(0) Less than 5,000 volumes.
_____(1) Between 5,000 and 10,000 volumes.
_____(2) Between 10,000 and 15,000 volumes.
_____(3) Between 15,000 and 20,000 volumes.
_____(4) Between 20,000 and 30,000 volumes.
_____(5) Between 30,000 and 40,000 volumes.
_____(6) Between 40,000, and 50,000 volumes.
_____(7) Between 50,000 and 60,000 volumes.
_____(8) Between 60,000 and 100,000 volumes.
_____(9) More than 100,000 volumes.

5. (5)On the average, how many patrons make use of your library facilities per month?

Check one
_____(0) Less than 600.
_____(1) Between 600 and 1,200.
_____(2) Between 1,200 and 1,800.
_____(3) Between 1,800 and 2,400.
_____(4) Between 2,400 and 3,000.
_____(5) Between 3,000 and 3,600.
_____(6) Between 3,600 and 4,800.
_____(7) Between 4,800 and 6,000.
_____(8) Between 6,000 and 7,200.
_____(9) More than 7,200.

6. (6)How many hours is your library open to the public each week?

Check one
_____(0) Less than 40 hours per week.
_____(1) 40 to 59 hours per week.
_____(2) 60 hours or more per week.

7. (7)Approximately, how many requests per month do you have from patrons seeking information, of a historical nature, about the county or its people?

Check one
_____(0) Less than 5 requests per month.
_____(1) 5 to 9 requests per month.
_____(2) 10 to 19 requests per month.
_____(3) 20 to 29 requests per month.

Continued on next page.

_____(4) 30 to 39 requests per month.
_____(5) 40 to 49 requests per month.
_____(6) 50 to 74 requests per month.
_____(7) 75 to 100 requests per month.
_____(8) More than 100 requests per month.

8. (8)Does your library have a local history collection?

_____(0) Yes.
_____(1) No.

9. (9)Which, if any, of the following items can be found in your collection of local history materials.

Check as many as would apply.
_____(9) Pictures (including photographs, slides, films, etc.).
_____(10) Files of local newspapers (entire newspaper).
_____(11) Microfilm copies of local newspapers.
_____(12) County, town, or other local histories.
_____(13) State and/or regional histories.
_____(14) Family histories and genealogies.
_____(15) Biographies of persons associated with your county or state.
_____(16) Newspaper clipping files.
_____(17) Old letters.
_____(18) Diaries.
_____(19) Journals.
_____(20) Business records or other miscellaneous business papers.
_____(21) Church records including histories, anniversary addresses, and sermons.
_____(22) Civic organization records (by-laws, special programs, projects, etc.).
_____(23) Census records for your county (either on microfilm or transcribed).
_____(24) Oral history tape recordings.
_____(25) Museum items.
_____(26) None of the above.
_____(27) Other. (Please specify.)_____
_____

10. (28)How many items are there in your local history collection?

Check one.
_____(0) Less than 10.
_____(1) 10 to 29.
_____(2) 30 to 49.
_____(3) 50 to 99.
_____(4) 100 to 249.
_____(5) 250 to 499.
_____(6) 500 to 999.
_____(7) 1,000 to 1,499.

Continued on next page.

_____(8) 1,500 to 2,000.
_____(9) More than 2,000.
Comment: (You may wish to briefly describe your collection.)

11. (29)Does your library specialize in any particular area(s) of collection development?

_____(0) No.
_____(1) Yes. (Please describe.) _____
_____

12. (30)Who has collected or is now collecting material about the history of your county and its people?

Check as many as would apply.
_____(30) Your library.
_____(31) The county historical society.
_____(32) Your town or city historical society.
_____(33) Privately by one or more individuals living in the county.
_____(34) Other libraries or museums in your county. (Please specify.) _____
_____
_____(35) Other. (Please specify.) _____
_____
_____(36) To your knowledge, local history is not being collected in the county.

13. (37)If your library has little or no local history material, is it because:

Check as many as would apply.
_____(37) Your library has never collected local history materials.
_____(38) Your library has no facilities, staff, or funds to collect such material.
_____(39) You do not know what to collect or how to acquire it.
_____(40) Previous librarians have shown no interest in building a collection.
_____(41) Another library or organization in the county is actively collecting the local history of the area.
_____(42) Other. (Please explain.) _____
_____

14. (43)If your library has little or no local history material in its collection at the present time, do you anticipate active collection in the future?

Continued on next page.

Check one.
_____(0) Yes.
_____(1) No.
_____(2) Don't know.

15. (44)Would you attend a workshop on local history if one were offered?

_____(0) No.
_____(1) Yes.

Comment:

16. (45)What area(s) would you be interested in if such a workshop were available?

Check as many as would apply.
_____(45) Acquisition.
_____(46) Cataloging.
_____(47) Maintenance.
_____(48) Use.
_____(49) All of the above.
_____(50) Other. (Please specify.)_____
_____

PART B

17. (51)How do you house your local history collection?

Check one.
_____(0) In a special area in the stacks.
_____(1) Integrated with the general collection.
_____(2) By itself in a room(s) especially set aside for the collection.
_____(3) Other. (Please specify.) _____
_____

18. (52)Is your local history collection cataloged or indexed for easy use?

Check one.
_____(0) Partially.
_____(1) Fully.
_____(2) Not cataloged or indexed.

19. (53)Is the material in your local history collection accessible to the patron through:

Continued on next page.

Check one.
_____(0) The main card catalog.
_____(1) A separate card catalog, special indexes, or registers.
_____(2) Both (0) and (1) above.
_____(3) Not accessible except by asking the librarian for information about what the collection contains and where items can be found.
_____(4) Other. (Please describe.) _____
_____

20. (54)Are there any restrictions on who may use material from your local history collection?

_____(0) No.
_____(1) Yes. (Please specify.) _____
_____

21. (55)Do you encourage teachers and students to use your local history materials for school assignments such as special projects, papers, etc.?

_____(0) Yes.
_____(1) No.

22. (56)Do you encourage use of your local history collection by persons other than teachers and students?

_____(0) Yes.
_____(1) No.

23. (57)Who actually uses your local history collection?

Check all that would apply.
_____(57) High school students.
_____(58) Junior high school students.
_____(59) College students.
_____(60) Genealogists and those persons compiling family histories.
_____(61) Historians.
_____(62) Other. (Please specify.) _____
_____

24. (63)How do you promote use of your local history collection?

Check as many as would apply.
_____(63) Special displays and exhibits within the library.
_____(64) Reading lists.
_____(65) Lectures or talks before groups.
_____(66) Exhibits or displays other than within the library.
_____(67) Newspaper articles.
_____(68) Television.
_____(69) Radio.
_____(70) Other. (Please explain.) _____
_____

25. (71)How do you acquire material for your local history collection?

Check all that would apply
_____(71) Gift.
_____(72) Purchase.
_____(73) Loan.

26. (74)Do you have an active program aimed at the community to inform them of the importance of collecting and preserving the history of the county?

_____(0) No.
_____(1) Yes.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

APPENDIX B

LIST OF LIBRARIES SURVEYED

LIST OF LIBRARIES SURVEYED

Alder Public Library
Ainsworth, Nebraska

Albion Public Library
437 South 3d Street
Albion, Nebraska

Alliance Public Library
Alliance, Nebraska

Alma Public Library
111 N. John Street
Alma, Nebraska

Arthur County Library
Box 121
Arthur, Nebraska

Auburn Public Library
1118 15th Street
Auburn, Nebraska

Aurora Public Library
812 12th Street
Aurora, Nebraska

Bartlett Public Library
Bartlett, Nebraska

Rock County Library
Bassett, Nebraska

Beatrice Free Public Library
218 N. 5th Street
Beatrice, Nebraska

Beaver City Public Library
Beaver City, Nebraska

Benkelman Public Library
Benkelman, Nebraska

Blair Public Library
1665 Lincoln Street
Blair, Nebraska

Blaine County Library
Brewster, Nebraska

Bridgeport Public Library
Bridgeport, Nebraska

Broken Bow Carnegie Library
626 South D
Broken Bow, Nebraska

Garfield County Library
Burwell, Nebraska

Davies Memorial Library
Butte, Nebraska

Center Public Library
Center, Nebraska

Hards Memorial Library
Central City, Nebraska

Chadron Public Library
507 Bordeaux Street
Chadron, Nebraska

Chappell Memorial Library
Chappell, Nebraska

Clay Center City Library
Clay Center, Nebraska

Columbus Public Library
1470 25th Avenue
Columbus, Nebraska

Dakota City Public Library
Dakota City, Nebraska

David City Public Library
David City, Nebraska

Elwood Public Library
Elwood, Nebraska

Fairbury Public Library
601 7th Street
Fairbury, Nebraska

Lydia B. Woods Memorial Library
120 E. 18th Street
Falls City, Nebraska

Franklin Public Library
1401 L Street
Franklin, Nebraska

Keene Memorial Library
1030 N. Broad Street
Fremont, Nebraska

Fullerton Public Library
Fullerton, Nebraska

Geneva Public Library
1043 G Street
Geneva, Nebraska

Gering Public Library
1055 P Street
Gering, Nebraska

Grand Island Public Library
321 W. Second Street
Grand Island, Nebraska

Grant City Library
Grant, Nebraska

Greeley Public Library
Greeley, Nebraska

Harrisburg Public Library
Harrisburg, Nebraska

Harrison Public Library
Harrison, Nebraska

Hartington Public Library
Box 458
Hartington, Nebraska

Hastings Public Library
4th and Denver
Hastings, Nebraska

Hayes Center Public Library
Hayes Center, Nebraska

Secrest Public Library
North 4th Street
Hebron, Nebraska

Holdrege Public Library
604 East Avenue
Holdrege, Nebraska

Grant County Library
Hyannis, Nebraska

Imperial Public Library
Imperial, Nebraska

Kearney Public Library
104 W. 21st Street
Kearney, Nebraska

Kimball Public Library
208 S. Walnut
Kimball, Nebraska

Lexington Public Library
103 E. 10th Street
Lexington, Nebraska

Lincoln City Libraries
136 S. 14th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Loup City Township Library
Loup City, Nebraska

Madison Public Library
Madison, Nebraska

McCook Public Library
802 Norris Avenue
McCook, Nebraska

Jensen Memorial Library
5th and Kearney Streets
Minden, Nebraska

Hooker County Library
Mullen, Nebraska

Morton James City Library
923 1st Corso
Nebraska City, Nebraska

Neligh Public Library
510 Main Street
Neligh, Nebraska

Nelson Public Library
Nelson, Nebraska

North Platte Public Library
120 W. 4th Street
North Platte, Nebraska

Goodall City Library
203 West A Street
Ogallala, Nebraska

Omaha Public Library
1823 Harney Street
Omaha, Nebraska

Gratton Township Library
O'Neill, Nebraska

Ord Township Library
1730 M Street
Ord, Nebraska

Osceola Public Library
Box 458
Osceola, Nebraska

Oshkosh Public Library
Oshkosh, Nebraska

Papillion Public Library
202 W. Lincoln
Papillion, Nebraska

Carnegie Public Library
Pawnee City, Nebraska

House Memorial Library
Box 509
Pender, Nebraska

Pierce Public Library
215 W. Court Street
Pierce, Nebraska

Plattsmouth Public Library
4th Street & Avenue A
Plattsmouth, Nebraska

Ponca Public Library
Ponca, Nebraska

Auld Public Library
Red Cloud, Nebraska

Rushville Public Library
Rushville, Nebraska

Schuyler Public Library
1003 B Street
Schuyler, Nebraska

Seward Public Library
5th and Main Streets
Seward, Nebraska

Sidney Public Library
Box 17
Sidney, Nebraska

Springview Public Library
Springview, Nebraska

St. Paul Public Library
520 Howard Avenue
St. Paul, Nebraska

Stanton Public Library
Stanton, Nebraska

Logan County Library
Box 245
Stapleton, Nebraska

Stockville Public Library
Stockville, Nebraska

Taylor Public Library
Taylor, Nebraska

Tecumseh Public Library
5th Street
Techumseh, Nebraska

Carnegie Public Library
Tekamah, Nebraska

Thomas County Library
Thedford, Nebraska

Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Nebraska

McPherson County Library
Tryon, Nebraska

Valentine Public Library
324 N. Main Street
Valentine, Nebraska

Wahoo Public Library
627 N. Broadway
Wahoo, Nebraska

Wayne Public Library
410 Main Street
Wayne, Nebraska

West Point Public Library
166 N. Main Street
West Point, Nebraska

Dvoracek Memorial Library
419 W. 3d Street
Wilber, Nebraska

York Public Library
306 E. 7th Street
York, Nebraska

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